

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01635 150154Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 OMB-01 /079 W
----- 063780

R 150132Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5285

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US, PP

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN PRESS STORY THAT GOA IS PREPARED TO
RECOGNIZE GRUNK

1. MELBOURNE "AGE" OF MAR 15 CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY
RUSSELL SKELTON, NEWLY-ASSIGNED MEMBER OF CANBERRA BUREAU,
ALLEGING THAT GOA IS READY TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM GKR AND
RECOGNIZE GRUNK WHEN PHNOM PENH FALLS TO REBELS. ARTICLE
STATES THAT DFA OFFICIALS HAVE JUST CONCLUDED ROUND OF INFORMAL
TALKS WITH GRUNK IN PARIS, PEKING AND HANOI, COVERING TERMS
UNDER WHICH GOA WOULD RECOGNIZE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.

2. DFA (IAN NICHOLSON, ASST SECRETARY, INFORMATION BRANCH)
CALLED EMBOFF MAR 15 TO MAKE CLEAR THAT STORY SERIOUSLY IN
ERROR. HE SAID GOA HAS MADE NO RPT NO DECISION TO RECOGNIZE
GRUNK AND THAT LAST CONTACTS WITH GRUNK REPRESENTATIVES WERE
SIX MONTHS AGO. DFA HAD SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME MAR 14
BRIEFING SKELTON ON EVENTS IN CAMBODIA, BUT SLANT IN THIS STORY
WAS SOMETHING SKELTON HAD PICKED UP ELSEWHERE.

3. AT MEETING AT DFA MAR 14 WITH DEP ASST SECRETARY ZURHELLEN,
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ALAN RENOUF, SECRETARY OF DFA, SAID THAT AUSTRALIAN DECISION

TO EVACUATE EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH WAS RELATED TO SECURITY OF
PERSONNEL AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO DECISION TO RECOGNIZE
GRUNK. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WILL BE EVACUATED TO BANGKOK,
WHERE IT WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE TO COVER CAMBODIAN SITUATION.

HARROP

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Message Attributes

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